



Beethoven + Thoresen (Beethoven+, vol. 3)

LASSE THORESEN: The Descent of Luminous Waters · LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio no. 6 in B flat, "Archduke"

Grieg Trio: Vebjørn Anvik, piano · Sølve Sigerland, violin · Ellen Margrete Flesjø, cello

- alert, spirited performances and a program that seems to highlight Beethoven's originality by placing it next to an inventive modern work. [Gramophone]

The last release in the acclaimed series Beethoven+ is ready. Grieg Trio bring this fascinating series to a powerful conclusion with Beethoven's last trio + the world premiere recording of Lasse Thoresen's piano trio no. 2.

The Archduke is a marvellous display of melodic inspiration, instrumental virtuosity, emotional depth and formal mastery of the mature Beethoven. The nickname of course reflects the dedication to Rudolph of Habsburg. The Duke of Austria was Beethoven's patron and pupil, studying both composition and piano with the master. Indeed this trio received its first performance with the Duke himself at the keyboard. Biographers have taken a special interest in the slow third movement, which according to legend was written to the same person who received Beethoven's most mystical and passionate love letters ... addressed only to 'Immortal Beloved'.

Beethoven + Thoresen

The last of the contemporary composers included in Grieg Trio's Beethoven+ series is himself a devoted admirer of Beethoven's work. Professor and composer Lasse Thoresen has received much praise for his music all over the world, both through concerts, festivals (composer in residence 2004–2007 Festival Présences) and recordings. His second piano trio "The Descent of Luminous Waters" was premiered by Grieg Trio and has been performed in Amsterdam, Berlin and London.

Grieg Trio

Grieg Trio are Vebjørn Anvik (piano), Sølve Sigerland (violin) and Ellen Margrete Flesjø (cello). Beethoven+ is a unique project, instigated by one of the world's foremost piano trios today. All of Beethoven's piano trios are performed along side newly written works for the ensemble, both in concert and on CD. The season 2002-03 saw the series performed in Wigmore Hall and Konzerthaus Berlin in 2005. Since 2004 the Grieg Trio is Artistic Director of the Stavanger International Chamber Music Festival, and the same year they were awarded the Norwegian Grammy for the complete recording of the Dvorak trios.

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"- The trio plays Beethoven's op. 70 no. 1 with the infectious vitality it brought to op. 1 no. 2, but now with a greater breadth and intensity. The slow movement is an emotional tour de force. [The Strad]"